

Historical Note on Erstwhile Chaomukh Mausoleum



The remains of the mausoleum locally called 'Hejira', situated in the now inundated and abandoned Chaomukh town (adjacent to Dadyal) are attributed to Diwan Ali Muhammad Khan and his descendents [1]. Diwan Ali Muhammad Khan was a younger brother of Sultan Jalal Khan, one of the dominant Gakkhar chiefs of Pothohar during the reigns of Mughal emperors Akbar (1542-1605) and Jahangir (1569-1627) [2, 1]. Diwan Ali Muhammad Khan's son Jabbar Quli Gakkhar was a mansabdar of the emperor Shah Jahan (1592-1666). His rank or status in the dual role of civil and military administrator was '1000 Zaat and 800 Sawar' (or Hazari Hasht-sadd Sawar) and he was granted the parganah of Andarhal located in the Jech (Chenhat) doab as fief for services rendered in the employment of the sovereign [3-6].

It is likely that Jabbar Quli Gakkhar was appointed a mansabdar albeit of a junior rank during the reign of emperor Jahangir. He remained administrator of the Dhan Maloki area of Pothohar, which now forms a part of the Chakwal district before being elevated to a senior grade of the mansabdari system. While he was appointed in Dhan Maloki, he established a village called Jabairpur [2]. This village obviously named after Jabbar Quli still exists but it has now transformed into a small suburban town of Chakwal. His son Mira Khan may have succeeded him in his earlier administrative assignment as he too served as the faujdar of Dhan Maloki area. Mira Khan and another son of Jabbar Quli named Fateh Khan, later founded Mirpur and

Fatehpur, respectively [2, 1]. Jabbar Quli Gakkhar also served as the qiladar of Sheberghan in northern Afghanistan during the 1646-47 Central Asian campaign of the emperor Shah Jahan. His brother Mohsin Quli, a military commander, also accompanied him during this campaign [4].

Chaomukh was situated on the right bank of the river Poonch and flourished as a market town. The settlement was much older than Mirpur or any other town in the area however its prosperity steadily declined after the establishment of the princely state of Jammu and Kashmir. The town suffered heavily during the first Kashmir war (1947-48) and was completely abandoned after the construction of the Mangla dam. The whole area where once the old town stood is now a vast emptiness and the mausoleum is the only visible reminder of the past.

References

1. Raja M. Yaqub Tariq, *Tarikh-e-Gakkharan*, Mirpur, 1956.
2. Raezadeh Diwan Dunichand (M. Baqir, Ed.), *Kaigoharnam*, The Panjabi Adabi Academy, Lahore, 1965.
3. Maulavi Abdur Rahim, *Index of Names of Persons and Geographical Names Occurring in the Badshahnamah*, Calcutta, 1872.
4. Abd Al-Hamid Lahawri (K. A. Ahmad, A. Al-Rahim, Eds.), *The Badshah Namah*, Vol. 2, College Press, Calcutta, 1868.
5. Abul Fazl Allami (H. Blochmann, Trans.), *The Ain-i-Akbari*, Vol. 1, The Asiatic Society of Bengal, Calcutta, 1927 (Reprint: Delhi, 1997).
6. Abul Fazl Allami (H. Blochmann, Trans.), *The Ain-i-Akbari*, Vols. 2-3, The Asiatic Society of Bengal, Calcutta, 1927 (Reprint: Delhi, 1997).